

PLANT . . . From the air, the neat and functional lay-out of the Shell Chemical Corporation's Synthetic Rubber Plant in Torrance can be seen. In the foreground is the butadiene

unit. In the left background is the styrene unit, and the copolymer unit is in the right background.

## Synthetic Rubber Main Product of Shell Plant

For the past quarter-century, Shell Chemical Corporation's primary objective has been the transformation of petroleum derived feedstocks into useful industrial chemicals. The company has pioneered hundreds of new petrochemicals. As early as twenty years ago, Shell scientists developed many of the original processes for the manufacture of synthetic rubber.

Synthetic rubber is the principal product emanating from Shell Chemical Corporation's plant in Torrance. The synthetic rubber is made of butadiene and styrene. The processes for manufacturing all three products are briefly outlined below:

**Building Block**  
The gas, butadiene, is a chemically active building block. Butadiene is produced at Torrance from another gas

called butylene by splitting off from the butylene an equal volume of hydrogen gas. However, the steps and facilities required are much more impressive than this simple dehydrogenation.

Styrene has become familiar to most Americans through the widespread marketing of plastic articles fabricated from polystyrene. However, the styrene produced at Torrance is a less familiar liquid form, or "monomer," of styrene. In the "monomer" form, styrene is an active chemical building block like butadiene. Thus, as a brick wall is formed by cementing many bricks, "monomeric" styrene molecules are united together to form polystyrene plastic articles.

**1000 Employees**  
More than 1,000 Southern California men and women work in Shell Chemical Corporation's synthetic rubber plant. Collec-

tively, they represent a long list of skills and training. Operators run the equipment. Boiler-makers, riggers, instrument-men, pipefitters, machinists, painters, carpenters, insulators, electricians and welders repair and maintain the equipment. There are chemists, engineers and technologists who keep the processes running smoothly and who study it constantly to make improvements. We also have gardeners, laborers, storekeepers, telephone operators, bookkeepers, cafeteria cooks and waitresses, registered nurses, safety inspectors, timekeepers, clerks and many others.

**Water Coolers**  
Water is circulated at the tremendous rate of more than 100,000 gallons a minute at Torrance plant. Two of the largest water coolers in industry recycle the water repeatedly, thereby placing a minimum strain on Southern California's

## Appointment Of School Heads Told

Assignment of three recently appointed vice-principals was announced last week by school officials of the Torrance Unified School District. They are Don Mullaney, William B. Forrest, and John Dunworth. They will fill vacancies created by the shifting of prin-

cipals and general school expansion. Mullaney, former child welfare and attendance supervisor, will become North Torrance elementary vice-principal. Former vice-principal John W. Strom will become principal of Perry school. Assuming the vice-principal's duties at Perry will be Wil-

liam B. Forrest, former Madrona teacher. Forrest replaces Joe T. Brandon who will become vice-principal at WALTERIA school. Webster J. Smith, former WALTERIA vice-principal, will head the Newton school which

will open soon. Dunworth, a former teacher at Carr school, will take over the vice-principalship at the new Steele school. Roland Petrat, former El Nido principal, will be principal at Steele.

**Consumption**  
California led all other states with a gasoline consumption of 5,256,338,000 gallons during 1954, reports the National Automobile club. Texas was second with a total of 4,462,293,000 gallons.

## Adequate Service For A Great Industrial Growth and Population Increase

Seldom have public utilities been called upon to make such rapid and expansive increases in services as have those serving the ever-growing community of Torrance. Fortunately, those challenges have been met with adequate facilities for the city's tremendous growth.

# TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 3



## Active Leadership Key To Recreation Program

BY DARLENE EARLEYWINE

Backing up the recreation program this year around are four employees working at the recreation office at 1347 El Prado.

In charge of the Recreation Department is Harry B. Van Bellehem, director of recreation, who was appointed to office in 1953.

Van Bellehem has an excellent background in the recreation field, having started in this type of work on a part-time basis in 1932.

Since that time he has worked in Long Beach, Beverly Hills, and Los Angeles County recreation departments.

**Accomplishments**  
Since coming to Torrance Van Bellehem has established more organizations for both young and old, a larger year-round recreation program, a more extensive summer program, and better recreational facilities than were previously available.

Elmer "Red" Moon is serving

in the capacity of athletic director in the Recreation department. He has been a resident of Torrance since 1934, and was hired as "supervisor of sports," upon recommendation of Dale Riley in March of 1945.

Since that time, Moon has done much to promote sports activities.

**Organizes Ball Teams**  
He organized the first Pacific Coast Softball team. Games were played at Torrance Park, which at that time was the only facility available for recreation.

Over the period of years, he

has promoted sports through boys' and men's programs, softball, basketball, and football leagues, among others.

Three years ago, Moon introduced Slow Pitch Softball games to this area. Since that time, nearly every major recreation department in Southern California has added this game to their program.

**Men's, Boys' Activities**  
Les Breitenfeldt, supervisor of men's and boys' activities, has been with the department since 1952. Prior to becoming an employee at the main office, he worked at McMaster park.

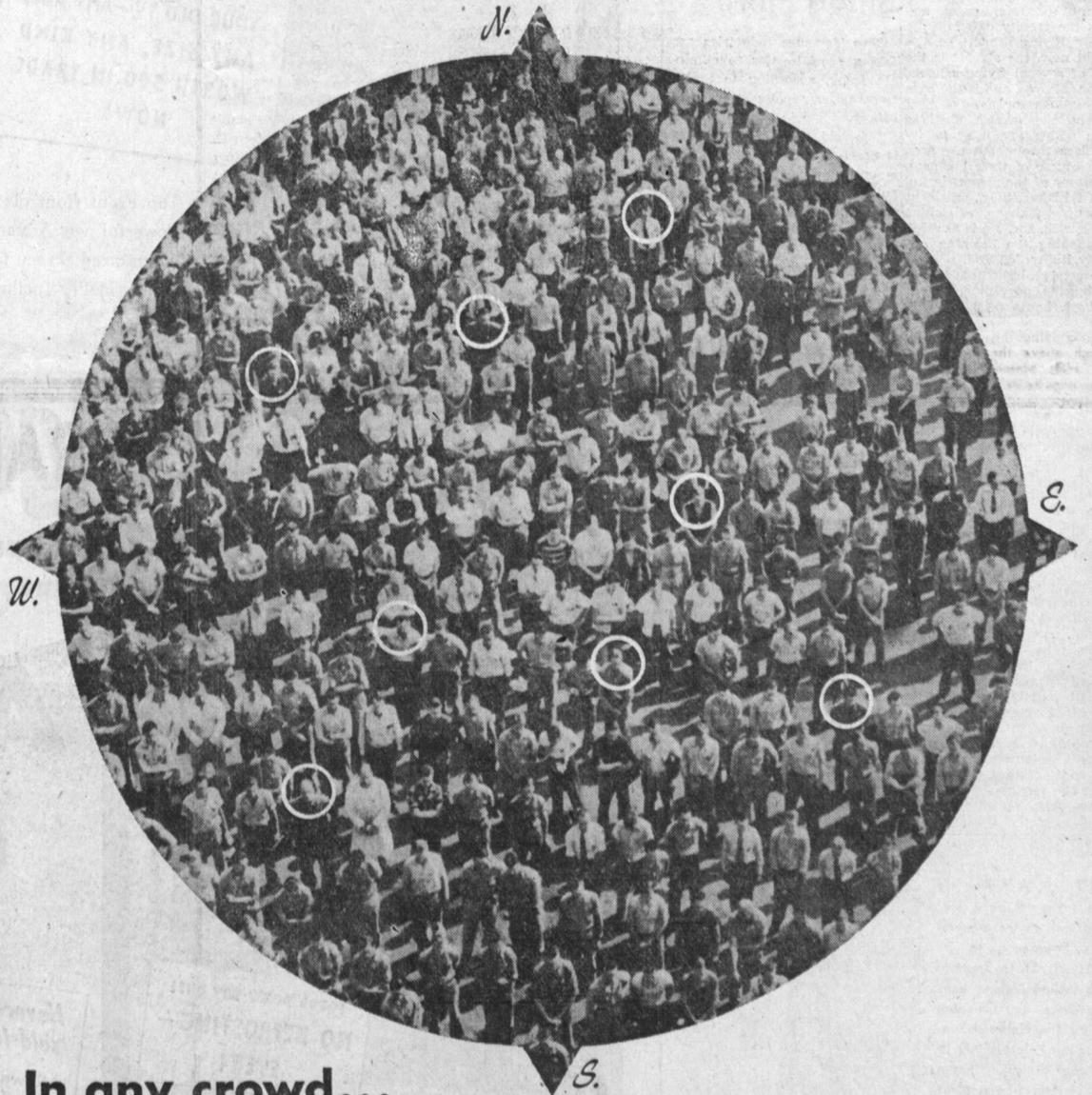
He is working constantly to promote interest and participation in various activities. He also supervises the playground areas and recreation personnel. He is greatly interested in activities for teen-agers, and was director of the Norten Club of North Torrance.

Breitenfeldt has helped organize various teams and leagues, such as the American Legion team and Pee Wee, Midget, and Junior Leagues among others.

**Contests**  
Breitenfeldt has been responsible for the success of various events, such as the Kite contest, Yo Yo contest, and Fish Derby.

**Secretary**  
Secretary to Recreation Director Van Bellehem is Mrs. Violet Whittington, a Torrance housewife. She has lived in Torrance for the past six years, and worked with the Board of Education in Los Angeles prior to coming to the Recreation Department in July of 1954.

Since her employment, she has kept the daily matters of the Department running smoothly. Mrs. Whittington, in addition to her secretarial duties in the department, is the secretary of the Torrance Recreation Commission.



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